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1st Pink Revs.  
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1st Green Revs.



**"PROPHETS AND LOSS"**

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#K2805

SLIDERS

"Prophets and Loss"

CAST

QUINN MALLORY  
REMBRANDT BROWN  
MAGGIE BECKETT

CADMUS

JANE

GARETH

SAMSON

PRISONER (MALE)

SCIENTIST ONE (MALE)

(X)

SCIENTIST TWO (FEMALE)

(X)

#K2805

SLIDERS

"Prophets and Loss"

SETS

INTERIORS:

ORACLE CENTER	(X)
LOBBY	(X)
STAIRWAY	(X)
ASSEMBLY ROOM	
STAGE	
PORTAL	
ORACLE'S OFFICE	
DETENTION BLOCK	
CELLS	
CUBICLE	
TUNNELS/FLOOD CHANNELS	
MAIN FLOOD TUNNEL	
ANOTHER SECTION	
SAMSON'S WAR ROOM	
AIR CONDITIONING CONDUIT	(X)
ANOTHER CONDUIT	
TECH OPS ROOM	

EXTERIORS:

COURTYARD	
ANOTHER PART	
CITY STREET	
NEWSSTAND	
ORACLE CENTER	(X)
CLOISTER	
FLOOD CONTROL CONDUIT	
TUNNELS/FLOOD CONTROL CHANNELS	(X)
PARK	
TOWN SQUARE	
FIELD	

#K2805

SLIDERS

"Prophets and Loss"

CHRONOLOGY PAGE

SCENES	1 - 28B	DAY #1	(X)
SCENES	29 - 51	NIGHT #1	
SCENES	52 - 81	DAY #2	
SCENES	82 - 105	DAY #3	

SLIDERS

"Prophets and Loss"

TEASER

FADE IN

1 EXT. COURTYARD - DAY (D1) 1

A kind of cloister one might associate with a church or monastery. The VORTEX OPENS near a central well, and Quinn is dropped onto the grass next to it. After a moment Maggie drops in. No Rembrandt. The vortex stays open.

QUINN

Where's Remmy?

MAGGIE

He's still at the ATM.

QUINN

Again?

2 ANOTHER PART OF THE COURTYARD 2

Quinn and Maggie don't know it, but their dramatic arrival has been observed by a man on the other side of the courtyard. His name is CADMUS, and he wears a business suit. He reacts with surprise to the open vortex and the sudden appearance of these two people. Then he draws back into the shadows of the cloister to observe without being seen.

(X)  
(X)

3 BACK WITH QUINN AND MAGGIE 3

The vortex still open. Now Rembrandt comes tumbling out, just as the VORTEX CLOSES behind him.

QUINN

That was...too close.

MAGGIE

Did you get any money?

REMBRANDT

No. And the thing almost ate my card.

The Sliders start to pick themselves up and dust themselves off.

CONTINUED

3 CONTINUED

3

QUINN

One of these slides you're going to get trapped in a world you don't want to stay in.

REMBRANDT

But I'll have money.  
(then)  
Where are we?

QUINN

Looks like a monastery.

MAGGIE

Oh, fun.

They start to walk toward a gate. Quinn checks the timer.

REMBRANDT

How long have we got?

QUINN

Seventy-two hours.

4 ANGLE ON CADMUS

4

in the shadows of the cloister. As the Sliders approach the far gate, he slips out and follows them.

5 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

5

As the Sliders move out onto a sidewalk. Looks like a normal city street, but a little cleaner. All the people we see are pleasant looking, well dressed, clean cut -- men in suits or jackets, women in dresses -- no slacks or shorts. No street people or homeless.

QUINN

Looks fairly normal.

MAGGIE

Too clean.

REMBRANDT

No Kromaggs, which makes it just fine with me.

QUINN

If we've got three days, I want to find a library, maybe talk my way into a lab, and get to work on this timer.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

5 CONTINUED

5

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Got to be a way I can program the  
coordinates to my brother's world.  
All I can do is hope he's got the  
coordinates for our home world.

Quinn stops a moment, struck by what he's just said.

MAGGIE  
What is it?

QUINN  
'My brother's world.' I just can't  
seem to get my mind around the idea  
that I've got a brother.

REMBRANDT  
A brother, a new father and mother,  
another whole new world where  
somebody may have slammed the hell  
out of the Kromaggots. Lot to get  
a mind around, Q-Ball.

They pass a trash can. Maggie sees a newspaper and takes  
it out of the can.

MAGGIE  
(reading)  
'Uprising in Detroit Ended. Master  
Oracle Declares Michigan Rat Free.'

REMBRANDT  
What? I've been to Detroit. Trust  
me, they've got rats.

QUINN  
(looking at paper)  
Master Oracle? That guy looks like  
Newt Gingrich.  
(to Maggie)  
Politician back home.

Maggie opens the paper and reads further.

MAGGIE  
'Welcomers ceremony draws a Hundred  
Thousand to Rose Bowl.'

REMBRANDT  
Welcomers? Doesn't sound like a  
football team.

MAGGIE  
(reading)  
'Jason Five, RadRat Sentenced to  
Re-Config.' What does that mean?

CONTINUED

5 CONTINUED 2

5

No one has a clue. Maggie continues to read as they pass a large poster on a wall. Under a big photo of Charles Darwin, in big print: DEMON DARWIN. HERETIC. ORACLE LECTURE SERIES STARTS FRIDAY. ORACLE CENTER.

QUINN

I guess the Charles Darwin of this world did something really terrible.

6  
THRU  
7 OMITTED

6  
THRU  
7

8 ANGLE ON CADMUS

8

who has been following them. He pauses now and takes out a miniature communicator -- like a cell phone -- punches in a code, then talks.

CADMUS

This is Cadmus. Three intruders have just transported into the cloister by some unknown method. Two men, one woman. They're headed for the center. Have central enforcement mark them for surveillance. They could be useful to us, or... they could be dangerous.

Cadmus snaps the communicator shut and starts off up the street, following the Sliders, and we...

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

9 EXT. ORACLE CENTER - DAY 9 (X)

A huge thirties era deco building. The Sliders approach on the sidewalk, moving among the crowds of polite, well-groomed people. They stop and look things over. (X)

MAGGIE  
What do you suppose the 'Oracle' is?

QUINN  
Could be some kind of church.

Suddenly, there is a loud, musical chime filling the air. The people on the sidewalk all stop whatever they're doing and head for the entrance of the Oracle Center. (X)

10 WITH THE SLIDERS 10

as they watch the people all move toward the center. A young woman passes them, pauses and looks back, sees they're not heading for the center, and turns back to talk to them. Her name is JANE.

JANE  
Aren't you coming to the assembly?

QUINN  
Ah...well, we're new in the area...

JANE  
Why don't you join me? (X)

Jane takes Maggie by the arm and starts in. Quinn and Remmy follow. (X)  
(X)

CUT TO (X)

10A INT. ORACLE CENTER - LOBBY - DAY 10A(X)

The lobby has an enormous stairway. The Sliders, following Jane, climb it. (X)  
(X)

JANE (X)  
Newcomers are always welcome at our assemblies. (X)  
(extending her hand)  
My name is Jane. I'm soon to be a Welcomer. (X)

CONTINUED

10A CONTINUED

10A

MAGGIE

(shakes hands)

I'm Maggie. And this is Quinn and Rembrandt.

REMBRANDT

Good to meet a Welcomer. Always liked getting welcomed better than not getting welcomed.

CUT TO

(X)

11 INT. ORACLE CENTER - THE ASSEMBLY ROOM - DAY

11(X)

Vast. Railings. High altar. Two men in suits sit in high-backed chairs facing the audience. One of them Cadmus. Behind the men, upstage on the platform, is a large archway with some kind of chamber inside. This is the Portal. Ethereal, new age music is playing as the audience assembles and stands quietly (No seats. Everyone stands throughout presentation).

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

12 A NEW ANGLE

12

to pick up the Sliders making their way in with Jane. An usher hands each of them a brochure.

(X)

13 CLOSER ON JANE AND THE SLIDERS

13

as they take their places.

(X)

JANE

(sotto)

Our Chief Oracle is Gareth, a truly gifted man.

14 ANGLE ON STAGE

14

Cadmus sitting next to Gareth. Cadmus is taking note of the Sliders' arrival.

(X)

JANE'S VOICE

The other man is the Chief Counselor, Cadmus. They are both 'sighted' leaders.

15 BACK TO SCENE

15

with Jane and the Sliders.

CONTINUED

15 CONTINUED 15

JANE  
A special provenance from the  
Master Oracle himself. 'Sighted'  
leaders can make law.

Maggie nods her understanding. Jane looks at Maggie carefully, then at Quinn and Remmy, as if studying them more closely. Remmy notices, gives her a nod and a smile. Jane lowers her eyes, thinking, then gives her attention to the stage once more.

16 ANGLE ON STAGE 16

As the music dies down and Gareth moves to a podium.

GARETH  
Welcome to this assembly of the  
Oracle, followers of the way. It  
is a blessing to see all of you  
this morning. This is a very  
special assembly because we have a  
group of Welcomers going through  
the portal to the other side, to  
the next world to make it ready for  
us.

At this, there is a gasp from the audience and then  
applause.

17 JANE AND THE SLIDERS 17

Jane applauds with the rest, then leans over to explain to  
our people.

JANE  
You're in for a special treat.

18 ANGLE ON GARETH 18

as he continues.

GARETH  
There is a wonderful new world  
waiting for us beyond the portal.  
A beautiful place you might think  
of as this earth, so alike will it  
be. But there we will know true  
peace, and contentment, leaving  
behind all cares and concerns.

19 ANGLE ON THE SLIDERS 19

as they look at each other. Is this guy talking about  
sliding?

20 BACK TO STAGE 20  
as Gareth continues.

GARETH  
We must be in constant readiness to  
go, to cross over when we are  
called.

The new wave music starts up again as Gareth faces the side  
of the stage.

GARETH  
All witness now the traverse of the  
Welcomers.

Four people, two men and two women, enter and cross toward  
Gareth. They are wearing red robes. Two large, muscular  
young men in slacks and blazers walk behind them. We'll  
see more of them later. They are Oracle ENFORCERS. Cadmus  
and Gareth move to each of the Welcomers, embracing each one  
in turn. The Welcomers then turn and walk upstage to the  
portal. They go inside the chamber and turn back to face  
the audience. Gareth and Cadmus close a gate on the front  
of the portal. There is a wide window in the front of the  
gate, so we can see the Welcomers in the chamber. Gareth  
then goes to what looks like a control panel to one side of  
it. The music reaches a crescendo and Gareth throws a  
switch. There is a loud electric zapping sound, and through  
the window, we see a dazzling light display that looks a bit  
like the vortex our Sliders use. The light flashes, there  
is a lot of smoke, and when it clears, the Welcomers are  
gone. (X)

21 THE AUDIENCE 21  
spontaneously applauds and cheers. (X)

22 THE SLIDERS 22  
react to what they've just seen. Amazed and concerned. Are  
these Welcomers "sliding" to new worlds?

CUT TO

23 OMITTED 23(X)

23A INT. ORACLE CENTER - STAIRWAY - DAY 23A(X)  
Jane, Quinn, Maggie and Remmy are coming down the stairs to  
the lobby. (X)  
(X)

JANE  
I hope you will join our assembly.

CONTINUED

23A CONTINUED

23A

MAGGIE

We're just passing through.

JANE

I see. Well, you're welcome any time. The center never closes.

They reach the lobby level. Jane smiles and walks away. (X)

24 WITH THE SLIDERS

24

as they pause in the lobby and watch the people head out of the center. (X)  
(X)

QUINN

I've got to get a look at that portal mechanism.

REMBRANDT

Maybe you should just ask them. They seem awful friendly.

QUINN

I'm not sure about that. There's something not right about these people. If they hate Darwin, what would they make of someone like me?

They start to walk toward the door. (X)

QUINN

Jane said the place is always open. Let's wait until there are not so many people around and have a look.

25 NEW ANGLE ON JANE

25

She's been standing some distance away observing the Sliders carefully, a worried expression on her face. (X)

CUT TO

26 EXT. PARK - DAY - SOME TIME LATER

26

Remmy and Maggie are sitting on a bench, Remmy working on a bagel and a cup of coffee, Maggie reading the brochure she picked up at the Oracle Center. Quinn isn't there. (X)

MAGGIE

They believe that life here is only to prepare you for life in the next world.

CONTINUED

26 CONTINUED

26

REMBRANDT

That's pretty much what I was taught in church.

MAGGIE

The faithful will all be gathered up on the Day of Accounting.

REMBRANDT

Same again. Day of Judgment. Day of Accounting. What does it say about the 'unfaithful'?

Quinn approaches, carrying several paperback books and magazines.

MAGGIE

(looking around)

I haven't seen any. Everybody seems to agree that the way of the Oracle is the way to go.

As Quinn arrives and takes a seat on the bench.

REMBRANDT

You mean the whole country follows one set of rules? No denominations? No political parties? No crazy guys holed up in Idaho with automatic weapons?

QUINN

Well, there are the Rats.  
(indicates a magazine)  
It's what they call the Rationalist Party. The Oracle apparently tolerates disagreement with their way as long as the Rats keep it on a low flame.  
(another magazine)  
They even have debates on television. Naturally the Oracle always wins.

CUT TO (X)

27 OMITTED

27(X)

28 EXT. PARK - TOWN SQUARE

28

The Sliders are walking down the sidewalk. Around them, the people go about their business -- all of them neat, friendly.

CONTINUED

28 CONTINUED

28

MAGGIE

Is it a religion, a life style, what?

QUINN

Near as I can figure, it's pretty much all of those. On Earth Prime we had a right wing political movement that wanted to establish a system based on family values.

REMBRANDT

Yeah, their family values.

QUINN

Obviously on this world, those people have won the argument. (another magazine) According to this, they've got a lot of rules. No real freedom of speech without Oracle approval. No abortion. No sex without Oracle license. Right dress and behavior at all times.

REMBRANDT

Sounds like a weekend at my Aunt Miranda's.

MAGGIE

How did the people let this happen?

QUINN

Must not have been paying attention when they should have been. When you don't vote, you get what you deserve.

They pause as a scruffy-looking man -- the first such one we've seen -- comes running out of an alley past the Sliders. He's being chased by two Enforcers. (X) (X) (X)

28A ANGLE ON CHASE 28A(X)

as the Enforcers catch the man, brace him and drag him off. (X)

28B BACK WITH SLIDERS 28B(X)

as they react to this. (X)

MAGGIE

Does it say anything in those magazines about Oracle fashion police? (X) (X) (X) (X)

CONTINUED

28B CONTINUED

28B

They continue walking.

(X)

REMBRANDT

Well, they at least have technology  
-- cars, planes, CD players.  
Schools must be pretty good.

QUINN

All controlled by the Oracle. No  
social sciences. They call that  
stuff 'Humanism.' And they teach  
nothing but Creation Science.

MAGGIE

That explains 'Demon Darwin.'

QUINN

No 'Big Bang,' no relativity, no  
black holes, no chaos theory. But  
if that portal is a sliding  
machine, they don't follow their  
own rules.

REMBRANDT

How's that?

QUINN

Quantum physics predicted parallel  
universes. What we do isn't  
possible without some understanding  
of subatomic particles moving from  
one place within the atom to  
another without going through the  
space in between.

Rembrandt looks at him a long moment, then.

REMBRANDT

I have no idea what the hell you're  
talking about, and I seem to slide  
just fine.

Quinn grins at that, and we....

CUT TO

29 EXT. STREET - NIGHT (N1)

29

Very few people out. The Sliders make their way along the  
street toward the Oracle Center, and go inside.

(X)

30 INT. ORACLE CENTER - THE ASSEMBLY ROOM - NIGHT 30 (X)

The lights have been dimmed and the room is empty except for two people standing in the front row, meditating. The Sliders enter cautiously and look around. After a moment, an Enforcer, one of the muscular young men we saw earlier during the Welcomer ceremony, comes out onto the stage and walks down steps into the auditorium. He looks at the two people in the front and smiles, then comes up the aisle toward the Sliders. (X)  
(X)  
(X)

31 ANGLE ON SLIDERS 31

As the Enforcer approaches, they quickly take out the brochures they were given earlier and start studying. The young man passes them, smiling at them, and moves on. Quinn looks over his shoulder to see that the Enforcer has gone. (x)  
(X)

REMBRANDT

I guess those guys make regular rounds.

QUINN

I'm going to take a chance and check out the control panel. If this thing is a sliding machine, maybe I can boost something to fix our timer.

Remy and Quinn start for the stage.

QUINN

(to Maggie)  
Give us a signal if one of those guys comes back.

MAGGIE

(a shade sarcastic)  
Like what, a flare?

QUINN

How about a sneeze?

Quinn and Remy pass the two people who have been sitting in the front row and are now leaving. The people smile at them just like everybody else does.

32 ON THE STAGE 32

Quinn quickly goes to the control panel we saw Gareth operating during the assembly. Remy comes to the portal.

33 MAGGIE 33

stays by the entryway. (X)



39 CONTINUED 39

REMBRANDT

Those people were burned to death.

Just as they react to this news, they are suddenly hit by two bright spotlights. (X)  
(X)

40 OMITTED 40

41 WIDER ANGLE 41

to show that Enforcers are coming in all of the doors and moving fast. Cadmus comes through the door at the back of the stage.

42 THE SLIDERS 42

react to being caught, and seeing no path of escape...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

43 INT. ORACLE CENTER - ORACLE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

43 (X)

Quinn, Remmy and Maggie are being spread-eagled and efficiently frisked by a couple of Enforcers as Cadmus stands nearby supervising. The Enforcers put what little they find in the Sliders' pockets onto a tray on a nearby table. Gareth is sitting across the room behind a large desk, apparently busy with paperwork. Maggie is especially annoyed by the frisking. An Enforcer finds Quinn's timer and hands it to Cadmus, who looks it over. After they're finished, the Enforcers move away and the Sliders turn toward Cadmus.

QUINN

Why are we being held? What have we done?

CADMUS

Why were you in the Assembly Room tonight?

MAGGIE

The door was open. Other people were coming and going freely.

CADMUS

Yes. The Assembly Room is always open for meditation and self-renewal. But you were up on the stage looking at the controls to the portal.

QUINN

I was curious about how it works. I'm...well, I'm kind of a scientist.

Gareth looks up from his work.

GARETH

Well, you've just answered your question...what have we done?

He rises and crosses to Cadmus and takes the timer to look it over. His manner is friendly to the point of being unctuous. He talks to the Sliders as if they're naughty children.

QUINN

And that would be...?

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED

43

GARETH  
You say you are a 'scientist.'  
That's a very dangerous thing to  
admit.

REMBRANDT  
For whatever it's worth, I'm not  
a scientist.

Quinn shoots him a look. Gareth crosses to Remmy.

GARETH  
So, what are you?

REMBRANDT  
I'm...an entertainer. Concerts.  
Records. Weddings...bar  
mitzvahs...

GARETH  
(turns to Maggie)  
And you?

MAGGIE  
A tourist.

Gareth turns to the table and sorts through the stuff on the  
tray that was taken from the Sliders' pockets.

GARETH  
A 'scientist,' an 'entertainer,'  
and a 'tourist.' Very little  
money. And very unusual.  
(holds up a bill, turns  
to Cadmus)  
Someone named Lincoln is on this  
five.  
(then)  
No identification, no travel  
permits, no locater documentation.  
No party cards.  
(holds up timer)  
And this.  
(to Quinn)  
What is this?

QUINN  
A kind of communicator.

GARETH  
Really? These numbers are counting  
down to something. What?

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED 2

43

QUINN

That's a power indicator. The time I have left before I have to change the batteries.

GARETH

If it's a communicator, it must communicate with something... where's the other one?

QUINN/MAGGIE

(at the same time)

There's not one...We lost it.

A pause, then Remmy steps forward.

REMBRANDT

Actually, they're both right. We lost it, so there's not one.

Gareth just smiles at Remmy, quiets him by holding up his hand. Then he turns and hands the timer to Cadmus.

GARETH

(to Cadmus)

Have our technical staff take a look at this.

Cadmus nods and hands the timer to one of the Enforcers, who exits. Gareth turns back to the Sliders. Smiles at them again.

GARETH

Forgive my rudeness. My name is Gareth and I am the Chief Oracle for the Los Angeles area. Your sudden appearance has caused us to forget our manners.

(a pause)

I've told you who I am. And this is my associate, Cadmus. Don't you want to tell me who you are?

QUINN

My name is Quinn Mallory. This is Rembrandt Brown, and Maggie Beckett. We're from...out of town.

GARETH

So it would seem? The question is...how far?

MAGGIE

Oregon, actually. Way up in the interior. This is our first trip to L.A.

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED 3

43

Vacation? GARETH

Something like that. QUINN

Have you been to Oracle World? GARETH

Not yet. QUINN

It's on the list, though. REMBRANDT

Be sure to see 'The World in Six Days' at the Imax Theatre. It's really something. And the Dark Age Dungeon Ride. There's new music this year by John Tesh. GARETH

Oh, I love him. MAGGIE

The Sliders laugh uncomfortably. Are they out of trouble here? Or what?

So...if we can get our communicator back, we'll get on over to Oracle World and enjoy ourselves. QUINN

I'm afraid we'll have to detain you for a while. GARETH

He nods to the Enforcers, who step forward.

Wait a minute, we're being arrested? QUINN

On what charges? MAGGIE

Gareth looks surprised.

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED 4

43

GARETH

Charges? I'm sorry, I thought you were paying attention.

He nods to Cadmus, who picks it up.

CADMUS

You are unknown to the authorities. You have no means of identifying yourselves. You're vagrants. And you're in possession of a 'scientific' device. The first three are misdemeanors.

(a beat, the smile is gone)

The last is a felony.

(to the Enforcers)

Take them.

The Enforcers start to herd them out. Rembrandt turns back...

REMBRANDT

Hey, wait a minute...we didn't do anything...

An Enforcer zaps Remmy in the butt with a little, hand-held "sting gun."

REMBRANDT

Ow! Man what is that thing?

And they're gone. Gareth thinks for a moment, looks at Cadmus, then returns to his desk.

CUT TO

44 INT. DETENTION BLOCK - NIGHT

44

A row of steel-barred, traditional jail cells. Quinn, Remmy and Maggie are escorted along the adjoining corridor. Quinn and Remmy are put into cells here. Maggie is escorted away to another section. Each cell contains a chair, a small table, a bunk bed, and standard sink/toilet combo in upper wall. We can see a prisoner lying on a bunk in the cell beyond Remmy. The other cells are empty.

(X)

(X)

45 OMITTED

45(X)

46 REMBRANDT

46

flops on his bunk.

CONTINUED

46 CONTINUED

46

REMBRANDT

You know, Q-Ball, before I started hanging with you, I hardly ever went to jail. Now? Everywhere I go...

He sits up and looks at the prisoner in the next cell. He's lying flat on his back.

REMBRANDT

(to the prisoner)

Hey, pal, what are you in for?

The prisoner looks over at him. A young man, somewhat disheveled, long hair, beard, raggy clothes.

PRISONER

Thinking.

Rembrandt nods. Makes about as much sense as anything else here.

REMBRANDT

What do they do to you for that?

PRISONER

Re-config.

REMBRANDT

Saw something about that in the paper. How does it work?

The prisoner stands and comes closer to Rembrandt. He has haunted, glazed eyes like a man who has been tortured or maybe begun to be chemically re-configured.

PRISONER

Chemical re-configuration.  
Intravenous feed of a drug soup.  
Wipes every cell in your brain clean. Then they feed you what they want you to know.

REMBRANDT

So, you just... 'forget' everything.

PRISONER

Everything. After chemical re-config you're a mindless robot, a pliable follower of the Oracle Way. No cares, no fears, no anger, no hate...

(MORE)

CONTINUED

46 CONTINUED 2

46

PRISONER (CONT'D)

(a beat)

No ideas, no challenges, no inspirations, no love.

REMBRANDT

Paper didn't say anything about chemicals.

PRISONER

They don't want you to know.

Rembrandt thinks about that and we move to...

47 THRU OMITTED  
48

47 THRU  
48

49 BACK WITH QUINN

49

as he paces. Rembrandt crosses over closer.

QUINN

I estimate we've only got about fifty hours to the slide.

REMBRANDT

Well, you better think of something good. I'm not staying here for twenty-nine years with nothing but white noise between my ears.

50 AT MAGGIE'S CELL

50

in another section of the prison. She has a visitor. A female Enforcer escorts Jane down the corridor to her cell. Jane is carrying a picnic basket. The Enforcer opens the cell door and Jane goes in, putting the basket on the table. As she talks, she takes out packages of food, etc.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

JANE

I brought you a few things to make you more comfortable. Some sandwiches for you and your friends...

(looking over to Quinn and Remy)

Didn't know what you liked.

CONTINUED

50 CONTINUED

50

Jane takes out a small vase and some flowers, crosses up to the sink to put some water in the vase, then comes back down and arranges the flowers.

MAGGIE

This is very kind of you.

JANE

(shrugs)

I'm on a women's committee that cares for the poor souls who find themselves on detention. It's all part of the good work.

MAGGIE

Even so...you didn't have to.

JANE

I do it with joy. As I do all my work for the Oracle.

MAGGIE

Tell me about the Oracle.

Jane reacts to that with surprise, as if she can't believe everyone doesn't know this. Maggie sees the reaction.

MAGGIE

My friends and I still have a lot to learn.

JANE

The Oracle is a way of life that removes care and doubt. It's a system of belief and behavior based on obedience to the Master Oracle.

MAGGIE

The Rationalists I've heard about think it's a system of repression and thought control.

JANE

I think that's sad. Through care and love I have seen even the most militant Rationalist come around to our way of thinking.

MAGGIE

(indicating the brochure)

Yes, I was just getting to the 'care and love' part.

JANE

All part of our training.

CONTINUED

50 CONTINUED 2

50

MAGGIE

You told me you were a 'Welcomer.'  
When do you expect to go to the  
'other side'?

JANE

No Welcomer knows the day or the  
hour. So we must keep ourselves in  
constant readiness. I have already  
settled my earthly affairs, and  
ceded all my assets to the Oracle.

MAGGIE

(surprised)  
Wait a minute. You've given the  
Oracle all your assets. All your  
money?

JANE

Money. Property. A few stocks I  
managed to buy. It's not much, but  
it will be no good to me where I'm  
going, and the Oracle can use it  
here for many good works.

Maggie turns away, thinking, not sure how to proceed. She  
can't just blurt out that the portal is an incinerator.

MAGGIE

I know that you believe you're  
going to a better place. We all  
would like to believe that. But  
this portal to the 'other side.'

Maggie pauses, unsure how to go on.

JANE

I understand your doubts, Maggie.  
I had them myself in the beginning.  
But the more I learned, the more I  
gave myself to the Oracle, the more  
I realized it had to be true.  
There is nothing here for me. I  
have no family. No real friends.  
No profession. But on the other  
side, I will be reunited with my  
mother and father. There will be  
no pain, no confusion. Only love  
and light.

Maggie has never met anyone like this. Much as she believes  
Jane is misguided, she can't help but respect her attitude  
and unquestioning faith. After a pause.

CONTINUED

50 CONTINUED 3

50

MAGGIE

Jane, if you knew this 'traverse'  
to the other side might cause your  
death, would you still go?

(X)  
(X)  
(X)

JANE

Of course.

(X)

Jane is smiling at her with such innocence and love, Maggie  
can't help but smile back.

(X)

CUT TO

51 INT. CHIEF ORACLE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

51

Gareth is behind his desk. Cadmus enters.

CADMUS

So far, the technical unit can't  
make out what the 'communicator'  
is.

GARETH

How do we know it's not some kind  
of bomb. That thing could be the  
detonator.

CADMUS

We've X-rayed it, and scanned it  
with the magnetic imager. There is  
no explosive material in it.

GARETH

Maybe it will detonate a bomb  
somewhere else. A much larger  
bomb.

CADMUS

The scan revealed no transmitting  
device. The best guess is that  
it's some kind of switch. It turns  
something on. Or off. But we  
don't know what. Naturally we'll  
have it under observation in the  
shielded isolation chamber when it  
counts down to zero.

GARETH

These people worry me. They could  
be part of some Rationalist  
infiltration. I'm getting reports  
of increased RadRat activity all  
along the Pacific coast.

CONTINUED

51 CONTINUED

51

CADMUS  
What do you want us to do with the  
strangers?

GARETH  
Chemical re-config. First thing  
tomorrow.

Cadmus reacts to this and exits.

CUT TO

52 EXT. ORACLE CENTER - CLOISTER - DAY - THE NEXT MORNING (D2)

52(X)

Morning activity with a few people up and about, Oracle  
workers in jump suits, Enforcers, a few civilians. We see  
Quinn, Maggie and Rembrandt surrounded by Enforcers, being  
led out of a door on the far side of the cloister and  
brought across the courtyard.

(X)

53 WITH THE SLIDERS

53

as they walk along, well guarded by the Enforcers.

REMBRANDT  
What do you think will happen now?

QUINN  
Breakfast. I hope.

REMBRANDT  
Just as long as they don't do that  
chemical thing.

MAGGIE  
Where do you think the timer is?

QUINN  
No idea. And no idea what to do  
about it.

REMBRANDT  
Not what I wanted to hear.

Suddenly, there is a shout and an explosion.

54 WIDER ANGLE

54

as smoke grenades drop into the courtyard. It's a raid.  
Armed, dark-clad men in masks leap apparently out of  
nowhere in the courtyard and come up from the central well.  
They're everywhere. In seconds, the courtyard is filled  
with smoke and confusion.

(X)

(X)

(X)

CONTINUED

54 CONTINUED

54

Enforcers try to return fire, but are taken down by the automatic weapons of the invaders. One Enforcer shoves the Sliders toward the Assembly Building, but he's intercepted by one of the dark people and clubbed to the ground. Two or three of the invaders circle around the Sliders, and firing into the advancing Enforcers, move them to one of the spider holes and down it. The Sliders have been kidnapped and have disappeared.

(X)

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

55 INT. TUNNEL - DAY 55

The Sliders are being hustled along a dark, winding tunnel. The dark-clad raiders are pushing and pulling them along, flashlights shedding very little light on the wet walls and floor of the tunnel.

56 EXT. FLOOD CONTROL CONDUIT - DAY 56

The Sliders come out of the tunnel onto a high concrete conduit somewhere in the flood system of L.A. The dark-clad raiders motion for them to continue. They have Uzis so the Sliders don't know for the moment if they've been kidnapped or rescued.

57 INT./EXT. TUNNELS AND FLOOD CHANNELS - DAY 57

Various shots as the Sliders are hustled along by their captors, over rushing water in sluices, along more dark and cramped tunnels, across bridges and dams. They're moving in secret passageways farther and farther away from the Oracle Center.

58 INT. MAIN FLOOD TUNNEL - DAY 58

as the Sliders arrive in a large chamber that is apparently headquarters for this bunch. We get our first good look at their captors: dressed entirely in various kinds of black pants and coats, some with surplus army gear of various types. All wear black cloth masks covering their head and face except for the eyes. Now that they've arrived at their H.Q., they start to take off the masks and hats and we see that half of the raiders are women. They all smile at the Sliders, which is not immediately comforting to our people. They've seen a lot of smiles on this world, none of them friendly.

(X)

59 ANGLE ON SAMSON 59

The raider who has been leading the way from the cloister has removed his bullet-proof jacket and mask and turns to the Sliders. He's a tall, rugged-looking fellow.

A big smile as he approaches Quinn and the others.

SAMSON

My name is Samson. Welcome to the underground.

CONTINUED

59 CONTINUED

59

He holds out his hand. After a moment of hesitation, Quinn takes it. Other raiders approach Remmy and Maggie, welcoming them, offering food and drink. Remmy is relieved to find that they may be among friends here. At least they have food.

CUT TO

60 INT. MAIN FLOOD TUNNEL - DAY - SOMETIME LATER

60

Samson is showing the Sliders around the chamber. It's a motley, jumbled, crowded headquarters. Rows of bookshelves cobbled together, and they all bulge with books of all kinds. There is a small laboratory with some battered-looking computers, various electronic instruments, chemistry and mechanical experiments in various stations being worked on by RadRats. As they pass by a row of jury-rigged computers, Quinn leans down to note the work being done on one of the screens. Then they move on. Samson is a loquacious sort of fellow, a little self-important, maybe impressed by his own press clippings. But likable.

SAMSON

We have here the beginning of what we need to take back our world from the Oracle. Our numbers are growing daily. The Oracle is under attack from all sides.

(X)  
(X)

Samson moves to a desk area that is obviously his space. The Sliders take seats nearby.

SAMSON

There are other secret labs and libraries, storehouses of the knowledge the Oracle would wipe from the face of the earth. But knowledge dies hard. And as the poet said: 'Knowledge is power.'

QUINN

You're the RadRats we've heard about?

SAMSON

(nods)

The Rationalist Party that is in the open is useful, but weak. The Big O has too strong a grip on the people. The only way real change will come will be through revolution.

REMBRANDT

Lot of that goin' around.

CONTINUED

60 CONTINUED

60

SAMSON

Now, then, what about you?

MAGGIE

(cautious)

What about us?

SAMSON

A great philosopher once said,  
'First things first.' Who are you?  
Where do you come from?

A pause. The Sliders look at one another, not sure to trust him.

SAMSON

Don't give me that Oregon business  
you laid on the Big O.

REMBRANDT

How did you know about that?

(X)

SAMSON

We have sources. We know how you  
came into this world. You were  
seen doing it.

QUINN

We were?

(X)

SAMSON

At first some of us thought you  
might be Welcomers, coming back  
from the other side. That the  
Oracle's portal really does work.

QUINN

The portal is an incinerator.

MAGGIE

And the Welcomers are being robbed.  
I met one. She's given everything  
she owns to the Oracle.

SAMSON

We know what the portal is, and we  
suspected the rest.

QUINN

As for the 'other side.' There  
isn't one far as I know.

SAMSON

Who can say? You came from  
somewhere didn't you?

CONTINUED

60 CONTINUED 2

60

Quinn looks at Maggie and Rembrandt, decides to come clean.

QUINN

We came from earth, but not this earth. My name is Quinn Mallory, this is Maggie Beckett and Rembrandt Brown. I invented a device that allows us to pass through a vortex into parallel worlds.

Samson is blown away.

SAMSON

I knew it! You were sent to help us in the struggle. It's true what the prophet wrote: 'God gives, but man must open his hand.'

REMBRANDT

Maybe we should leave God out of this.

(X)

(X)

(X)

SAMSON

And what do you do?

MAGGIE

On my world I was a Captain in the Marine Corps.

SAMSON

Military background. Good, we can always use another fighter.

QUINN

Wait a minute. We're not here for your fight. We have no control over where we go or how long we stay. And the Oracle has the only device that does have control over that.

REMBRANDT

If we don't get it back -- the timer -- when the time runs out, we'll be stuck here a very long time.

(X)

SAMSON

If that happens you'll have no choice but to join us.

The Sliders react to that. Obviously a mistake to tell these guys the whole truth. Quinn gets an idea.

CONTINUED

60 CONTINUED 3

60

QUINN

Let's make a deal. You and your raiders help us get the timer back, and for however long we're here, we'll help you.

Samson shrugs. What can you do for us?

QUINN

When you were showing us around, I noticed one of your people is working on tight-focussed lasers.

(X)

SAMSON

Yes?

QUINN

He's doing it wrong.

Samson thinks it over.

SAMSON

You've got a deal.

QUINN

We have to move fast. If you get the timer back for us, we wouldn't have much time left here.

Samson rises and summons a few of the RadRats whom we saw working in the lab areas.

SAMSON

Then we must get started right away. As Norm Crosby once said: 'Waste not, want not.'

REMBRANDT

(to Quinn)

I thought that was Ben Franklin.

QUINN

Different world, different quotes.

Two or three RadRat "scientists" have gathered at Samson's desk.

SAMSON

We need to work up a plan for a raid on the Oracle compound. Maggie, why don't you join me? In the meanwhile, I'm sure my associates here have a few questions for Doctor Mallory.

CONTINUED

60 CONTINUED 4

60

QUINN

It's just Quinn.

Samson pauses a moment, looking at Rembrandt.

SAMSON

And what is your job on the team?

REMBRANDT

I'm a singer.

Samson takes that in for a moment, then...

SAMSON

Interesting.

Samson moves away, Maggie following. The scientists immediately bore in on Quinn, all talking at once.

SCIENTIST ONE (MALE)

(X)

I don't understand how photons can have momentum but no mass.

QUINN

Well...

SCIENTIST TWO (FEMALE)

(X)

In parallel universes is there matter, or just 'ghosts' of matter?

SCIENTIST ONE (MALE)

(X)

And what about the Anthropic Principal?

QUINN

One of my favorites.

Quinn smiles. He enjoys this.

CUT TO

61 EXT. ORACLE CENTER - CLOISTER - DAY

61(X)

Gareth and Cadmus are moving through the wreckage from the RadRat raid. Repair is underway to the smoke and fire damage.

(X)

CADMUS

We found a tunnel beneath the compound. We're closing it up.

(X)

(X)

Gareth rises and crosses back toward the Assembly Room. Cadmus follows.

CONTINUED

61 CONTINUED

61

GARETH

I imagine the RadRats have taken  
the intruders far away by now,  
perhaps even out of the state.

CADMUS

I don't think so. I believe that  
'communicator' is more important to  
them than they let on. I think  
they'll be back for it. And we'll  
be ready for them.

Gareth nods and exits.

CUT TO

62 INT. SAMSON'S WAR ROOM - DAY

62

A small cubicle off the main flood channel, high up on one  
of the dams. Through openings in the wall we can see the  
rest of the flood channel and maybe a skyline of oil  
refinery towers, with smoke and flame blow-offs. Samson and  
his command staff are looking at a computer terminal that  
features maps and diagrams that he moves with a mouse as he  
talks. Maggie is next to him.

SAMSON

They will have closed off the  
tunnels we used. And the guards  
will be doubled in the cloister and  
assembly area.

MAGGIE

I think it would be better to make  
a surgical strike with a small  
force. Not a big raid like the one  
this morning. If you can get  
intelligence on just where the  
timer is being held, we can  
concentrate on that sector.

Samson smiles at her. Maggie's expertise really turns him  
on.

CUT TO

63 ANOTHER SECTION OF THE MAIN TUNNEL

63

Quinn is supervising a couple of scientists at a computer  
console. One is a woman. Rembrandt is there as well. The  
scientists begin to squabble among themselves over a  
calculation.

(X)

(X)

CONTINUED

63 CONTINUED

63

SCIENTIST ONE (MALE) (X)  
The value of pi doesn't figure (X)  
in this equation. (X)

SCIENTIST TWO (FEMALE) (X)  
Of course it does. (X)

SCIENTIST ONE (MALE) (X)  
(petulant) (X)  
It's always pi with you, isn't it? (X)

Quinn steps in. Scientist Two turns to him. (X)

SCIENTIST ONE (MALE) (X)  
How can light be both a wave and (X)  
a particle?

QUINN  
Pretty weird, I know. Niels Bohr  
said anyone who is not shocked by  
quantum physics just doesn't  
understand it.

The scientists get excited and go back to their work. Quinn  
moves away from them, checks his watch, anxious.

QUINN  
(to Remmy)  
These people better come up with a  
good plan. And fast.

REMBRANDT  
I'm not sure about these RadRats.

QUINN  
Compared to the Oracle, they look  
like the good guys to me.

REMBRANDT  
Maybe. Did you see the way the  
head man's eyes lit up when he  
thought we'd have to stay here.

QUINN  
He's fighting for a cause.

REMBRANDT  
It's all politics, man. And that  
stuff gets all up your head and  
twists it around. Power. That's  
what it's all about. The guys in  
white suits have got it, and the  
RadRats want it. It's folks in the  
middle, like us, who always get  
hurt.

CONTINUED

63 CONTINUED 2

63

Quinn nods, then turns as he hears a noise. Samson and Maggie are approaching.

MAGGIE

We've got a plan.

SAMSON

(full of admiration)  
Doctor Mallory, your Captain  
Beckett here is so...so warlike.  
(turning to her)  
I like that in a woman.

Quinn and Remmy smile at that, and we...

CUT TO

64 OMITTED

64 (X)

64A INT. TUNNEL - DAY - MOVING SHOT

64A (X)

with our RadRat raider team: Quinn, Remmy, and Maggie in  
RadRat motley, city camouflage with masks and backpacks,  
led by Samson and one other RadRat. Only Samson and the  
RadRat have automatic weapons.

(X)

(X)

(X)

65 WITH SAMSON

65

He is holding a small computer "locator" -- a small key  
punch pad and a little LED screen which displays a map of  
the area they are moving through.

66 OMITTED

66 (X)

66A ANOTHER TUNNEL

66A (X)

They continue on their way.

(X)

67 OMITTED

67 (X)

67A SOMEWHERE IN TUNNEL

67A (X)

Maggie, Quinn and Remmy pause to catch their breath.

(X)

MAGGIE

We're under Oracle Tech Ops right  
now. If Samson's inside man is  
right, the timer is in a safe on  
the first floor.

(X)

CONTINUED

67A CONTINUED

67A

QUINN

Where's the alarm panel?

Samson crosses to them, clicks up a new display on his locator. He and Maggie check the schematic, then Maggie points to a panel on the wall by a ventilator opening. They cross to it. Quinn takes some tools from Maggie's pack, puts small light in mouth, opens the panel and goes to work short-circuiting the alarm system with transistors, etc.

SAMSON

(indicating the vent)  
That's the way in.

REMBRANDT

I'm more interested in the way out.

MAGGIE

There's a conduit from the safe room back here and then to the sewers.

(X)

REMBRANDT

They're not called rats for nothing.

Samson and the Sliders cross to the vent. Samson slips off the cover and climbs inside. The others follow.

(X)

68 INT. AIR CONDITIONING CONDUIT

68

Samson and the Sliders make their way along the conduit. They reach a fork, Samson checks his "locator," takes the right tunnel.

69 OMITTED

69 (X)

70 ANOTHER CONDUIT

70

As they arrive at the vent into the Tech Ops safe room. Samson looks through the vent.

71 SAMSON'S POINT OF VIEW - ANGLE THROUGH VENT

71

A large room with work tables, various lab equipment. There is a large safe at one end of the room. There are also several workers in the room.

72 IN THE VENT 72

Samson opens his backpack and takes out a canister. Pausing only to make sure the Sliders are pulling their gas masks into place, he aims the canister into the Tech Ops room and blasts away.

73 INT. TECH OPS ROOM 73

As the gas mists out into the room. The unmasked workers react almost immediately and pass out at their stations. Samson kicks open the vent cover and climbs into the room, followed by the Sliders. Samson crosses to the safe, takes a small charge of plastique from his pack, divides it, places a charge on each of the two big hinges and inserts a timer detonator. He sets the detonators and they all take cover. In a matter of seconds the plastique blasts the safe door off its hinges. Quinn crosses quickly and finds the timer inside. He checks the timer -- ticking down from 6 hours.

(X)

QUINN

We've got to lay low for another six hours.

SAMSON

We've got that worked out.

Or maybe not. As they start back toward the vent, there is a loud burst of automatic weapons fire.

74 NEW ANGLE 74

Samson and the other RadRat engage the Oracle Enforcers who have entered the room from doors in opposite walls. The first burst from their weapons takes out the RadRat and Samson sees they're badly outgunned. He raises his weapon in surrender. More Enforcers burst into the room. Samson is disarmed and knocked to the floor with a rifle butt. The Sliders are quickly surrounded. Cadmus steps through a door, protected by a large Enforcer. He crosses to Quinn and takes the timer away from him.

75 THE SLIDERS 75

react to their capture, and we...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

76 INT. DETENTION BLOCK - DAY

76

This time Samson and the Sliders are all in the same large cell. The only piece of furniture is a long bench, so obviously they won't be here long.

(X)

SAMSON

I'm certain my pack is already planning a rescue mission. When we didn't return at the appointed time, they're trained to move.

MAGGIE

How are they going to get past all the security the Oracle has piled on us now?

SAMSON

Trust me. They won't give us up.

REMBRANDT

There's some stuff here I don't understand.

(rises and crosses to the bars of Quinn's cell)

Ever since we got here everybody seems to know what we're doing before we do it.

(to Samson)

You say we were seen sliding in. Then, the Big O's heat is on us right away in the Assembly Room. Then your people bust us out of here. And when we come back for the timer, here's the Big O again like they were in on the plan.

QUINN

More than coincidence.

(to Samson)

Who's running this show?

SAMSON

We have undercover agents very high in the Oracle. I don't know who they are or when they'll move. But they will. 'The biggest campaign is built on the smallest detail.' Julius Caesar. The Second.

77 A NEW ANGLE

77

As Cadmus and one of the Oracle Enforcers enters the corridor and moves along by the cells. He pauses only briefly to look at Samson who glares back, then opens the cell door.

(X)  
(X)

CADMUS  
Mr. Mallory, I'd like a word with you in private.

Quinn comes cautiously out of the cell, then follows Cadmus.

(X)

78 A CUBICLE

78

at one end of the detention block. There is a table, two chairs, typical interrogation set-up. Cadmus stands at the table, nods to the Enforcer, who leaves, closing the door.

CADMUS  
Sit down.

Quinn does.

CADMUS  
I want to ask you a few questions about your 'communicator.'

QUINN  
(a shrug)  
You can ask.

CADMUS  
It would go a lot easier for you if I knew exactly what it is and what it does.

QUINN  
I'm not sure you could understand it.

CADMUS  
Try me.

A long pause as Quinn studies Cadmus.

QUINN  
If you think I'll betray my friends to get a better deal for myself...

CADMUS  
(cutting him off)  
It's a timer. I know that much. What is it counting down to?  
(MORE)

CONTINUED

78 CONTINUED

78

CADMUS (CONT'D)  
(nothing from Quinn)  
What happens when it gets to zero?  
(nothing, then)  
Well, let me put it to you this way. I think it somehow controls your passage into and out of this dimension.

Quinn reacts to this.

QUINN  
you're the one who saw us slide in.

CADMUS  
Never mind that. I want to know what happens when the time runs out.

QUINN  
Let's just say you'll have three more RadRats on your hands for a long time.

Cadmus nods and rises.

CADMUS  
Not necessarily, Mr. Mallory. Not necessarily.

He indicates it's time for Quinn to go back to his cell. Quinn rises, and we...

CUT TO

79 OMITTED

79(X)

79A INT. ORACLE CENTER - STAIRWAY - DAY

79A(X)

Gareth is finishing a cell phone conversation as Cadmus enters.

(X)

GARETH  
(into phone)  
Yes, we're certain to get a lot of information out of him before he enters Chemical Re-Config.  
(pause)  
Certainly. Thank you, sir. I'll pass it along.

He hangs up and turns to Cadmus, very pleased with himself.

CONTINUED

79A CONTINUED

79A

GARETH  
(to Cadmus, indicating  
phone)  
The Master Oracle himself. He's  
very pleased. Samson is the  
highest ranking RadRat yet taken on  
the west coast. His re-config will  
be a great coup for the Oracle.

CADMUS  
I'm sure you're right, but I think  
you should consider making a  
harsher example of him. And the  
others as well.

GARETH  
What are you suggesting?

CADMUS  
As dangerous as Samson is, the  
others are worse. We don't know  
where they came from, or if there  
are more like them. They have some  
kind of advanced scientific  
knowledge, and they may have passed  
along some of it in the time they  
were underground. In short, I  
think we need to be rid of them  
all.

GARETH  
You're saying we should execute  
them? The intruders, I understand,  
but wouldn't we be giving the  
RadRats a martyr with Samson's  
death?

CADMUS  
As far as the people know he  
won't die.

The light comes on as Gareth understands what Cadmus is  
suggesting.

GARETH  
Ah...

CUT TO

80 INT. DETENTION BLOCK

80

Samson and the Sliders are still in their joint cell.

CONTINUED

80 CONTINUED

80

QUINN

Just for the sake of argument.  
Let's say your people can break us  
out of here. Then what? Without  
the timer, we're stuck here for  
twenty-nine years.

SAMSON

Would that be so bad?

REMBRANDT

I'm gonna say 'yes.'

SAMSON

We're going to win.

MAGGIE

How can you be so sure?

SAMSON

Because we're right. Man is a  
rational creature. All we want is  
to restore rationality as a way of  
life. We want to stop the  
suppression of speech, and get on  
with the search for knowledge, and  
ultimately wisdom.

QUINN

Okay, let's say you get what you  
want. The Rationalists take over.  
What will you do to the Oracle and  
the people who believe in it?

SAMSON

Nothing. They're free to believe  
whatever they want. They just  
won't be free to impose those  
beliefs on others against their  
will. After all, God himself  
created our minds. He must have  
wanted us to use them.

MAGGIE

Who are you quoting this time?

SAMSON

Me.

They hear approaching sounds. Enforcers?

81 A NEW ANGLE

81

as Jane enters, followed by one of the Enforcers keeping an  
eye on things.

CONTINUED

81 CONTINUED

81

JANE  
I have wonderful news. I've come  
to free you.

MAGGIE  
That's great! How?

JANE  
We will all make the transverse to  
the next world together.

QUINN  
What?

JANE  
The Chief Oracle has proclaimed it.  
Samson and the three of you will be  
joining us as Welcomers.

REMBRANDT  
You mean we're going through that  
portal?

JANE  
(beaming to Maggie)  
It's more than I could have hoped  
for.

MAGGIE  
Jane, that portal is not what you  
think...

QUINN  
It's a killing machine.

SAMSON  
The Oracle has lied to you. Taken  
everything you own. And now  
they're going to take your life.

Jane is shocked.

JANE  
(to Samson)  
I expected something like that from  
you.  
(to the Sliders)  
You can't listen to him. You have  
to trust in the Oracle.

There's nothing left for the others to say. With a last  
contemptuous look at Samson, Jane exits.

CUT TO

82 INT. ASSEMBLY ROOM - THE NEXT DAY (D3) 82

The service is in progress. This time, because of the importance of the occasion, there are television cameras present. We may see a couple of monitors and an assistant director with headset, etc. Dressed in red robes, Samson, Quinn, Maggie and Remmy are standing on the stage behind the podium where Gareth is addressing the congregation. There is quite a crew of Enforcers on hand for the occasion. One stands behind each of our people, and there are more scattered around the stage and auditorium. Cadmus is standing near the portal mechanism.

GARETH

My friends and co-workers in the way of the Oracle, the signs of the 'end times' are all around us. The confusion you may be feeling today as you see unrest increase has been foreseen by the Master Oracle. Change is painful, but we know the rewards that come of endurance and steadfast faith.

The new age music starts up.

GARETH

Today we are sending two special groups of Welcomers to that reward.

83 A NEW ANGLE 83

as Jane leads three other "Welcomers" in their red robes toward the portal.

84 MAGGIE 84

watches as Jane and the others cross toward the portal.

85 THE WELCOMERS 85

are all embraced by Gareth and Cadmus. Jane then looks over toward Maggie, crosses to her. Maggie stands and embraces Jane.

JANE

I'll see you on the other side.

She starts to move away. Quinn leans forward.

QUINN

Jane, you must listen to us...

JANE

No, you must believe.

CONTINUED

85 CONTINUED 85

And she goes with the others to the portal. Maggie is emotionally torn by this. Remmy leans down to her.

REMBRANDT

Maybe she's right. We'll certainly know soon enough.

86 ANGLE ON PORTAL 86

as the gate closes and Cadmus moves to the console. The music swells, and Cadmus hits the switch. We see the flash of the incinerator and the Welcomers are gone.

87 MAGGIE 87

Crushed by this. Both Remmy and Quinn try to comfort her.

88 GARETH 88

is back at the podium addressing the believers.

GARETH

I'm sure you know that we apprehended the Radical Rationalist Samson and some of his followers in the Oracle compound this morning. We have consulted the Master Oracle, and have decided that our re-configuration methods here are not up to the task of dealing with these people. So we are sending them with the Welcomers to the other side in the hope that the wisdom gained there will provide the means for their salvation.

He turns to Samson and the Sliders, who are nudged to their feet by the Enforcers behind them. Remmy is hit again with one of those little "sting guns" when he is reluctant to move. The music starts again as they are moved toward the portal.

As they pass the podium, Samson breaks free for a moment and rushes to the microphone.

SAMSON

(to the TV cameras)  
This is a fraud!  
(points to portal)  
That thing is an oven! Your friends aren't on the other side. They're dead!

CONTINUED

88 CONTINUED

88

At this point, a couple of Enforcers start to drag Samson away from the mike, but he continues to shout.

SAMSON

The Oracle has robbed them and murdered them!

At this point one of the Enforcers zaps Samson with a sting gun and he collapses and is carried to the portal.

89 ANGLE ON THE AUDIENCE

89

which has been visibly shaken by Samson's shouting. They are talking among themselves, trying to figure this out.

90 THE STAGE

90

In the confusion, Quinn and Remmy jump one of the Enforcers, trying to take his sting gun, but both are quickly subdued by the other Enforcers. Gareth quickly moves back to the mike.

GARETH

You see how perverted these RadRats have become. Re-config on the other side is the only solution. The final solution.

There is still some unrest in the crowd. It could go either way here.

91 AT THE PORTAL

91

as Samson is carried inside the chamber, and the Sliders are forced in after him. Looks like this is the end for our folks. Cadmus steps forward at the last moment.

CADMUS

Mr. Mallory...

Quinn turns to him.

92 INSERT

92

Cadmus taking the timer from his jacket and slipping it to Quinn, who conceals it in his robe.

93 BACK TO SCENE

93

CADMUS

I wish you well on the other side.

CONTINUED

93 CONTINUED 93

A smile from Cadmus as Quinn follows the others into the portal.

94 IN THE PORTAL 94

as the gate is being closed. Quinn quickly shows Remmy and Maggie the timer. Relief is not really strong enough for their reaction.

REMBRANDT

It was one of the head guys all along?

Quinn nods and checks the timer.

95 INSERT - THE TIMER 95

Counting down from 10...9...8...7...

96 AT THE CONSOLE TO THE PORTAL 96

Cadmus is also watching a timer in front of him...6...5...4...

97 WIDER ANGLE 97

as the music swells and...

98 THE PORTAL 98

is lit up with the vortex which looks like the incinerator effect we've seen before. When the flash is over we can see through the glass that the portal is now empty.

CUT TO

99 EXT. FIELD - DAY 99

One at a time, the Sliders are dumped down in a meadow. We are somewhere in the country, no signs of life or building around. Samson is coming around just as he makes the slide to this new world. Quinn, Remmy and Maggie pick themselves up and start to look around. Quinn leans down to help Samson to his feet. Samson is still a little stunned from the zapper, but okay.

QUINN

It was Cadmus.

CONTINUED

99 CONTINUED

99

SAMSON

I knew it would be somebody.  
(then, re: the timer)  
Can that thing get me back?

QUINN

Yes. But we'd all have to go. If  
we miss the vortex we'd be stuck  
here.

REMBRANDT

I don't know if I want to let those  
guys take another shot at cooking  
me.

SAMSON

Don't you understand, I've started  
something and with Cadmus in place,  
we can finish Gareth, maybe more.  
Millions of people saw me on  
television, heard what I had to  
say.

MAGGIE

I agree with Samson. I think we  
should go back, and help him finish  
the fight.

Samson embraces her. Remmy is unhappy. Quinn is thinking.  
Maggie moves away from Samson and heads up a little rise to  
look over the hill. Quinn gets the idea.

QUINN

The people there think the portal  
is a way into a better world. And  
no one has ever come back. What if  
someone did? That someone would  
have such a powerful message that  
nothing the Oracle said could stop  
it.

(to Remmy)

Samson has to go back, and we have  
to go with him. We have to do the  
right thing.

REMBRANDT

You sound just like my mother.

(then)

You know I'm with you.

(to Samson)

I was wrong about you.

Samson nods. Quinn notices that Maggie has moved away. He  
crosses toward her.

100 WITH MAGGIE AND QUINN

100

as Maggie looks around. Quinn picks up on what she's doing.

QUINN

You didn't expect to find Jane here, did you?

MAGGIE

Expect? No.  
(then)  
I was hoping.

Quinn nods. They turn and rejoin the group. Quinn punches in the numbers on the timer. The vortex materializes and the Sliders jump in.

101 INT. ORACLE CENTER - DAY

101(X)

Cadmus is at the podium trying to control a chaotic situation. Gareth is being restrained by a couple of Enforcers. To one side of the stage, an Enforcer with an automatic weapon is holding some of his colleagues at bay. The audience is a melee of emotions. People who believe in the Oracle are weeping or yelling at Cadmus. Those who might be leaning Rationalist are shouting at them and urging Cadmus on. We see some of the RadRats from the underground now openly joining the others, shouting their slogans. Cadmus is holding up both arms, trying to calm everybody, and the television cameras are eating everything up.

CADMUS

My friends....my friends...  
Please... please...be calm and  
listen...

Shouts from the audience: "The Oracle Rules!" "Free Gareth!" "Listen to Cadmus." "The Rats will be Heard!" etc.

CADMUS

(working the camera)  
Hear me out! You have all been misled by your leadership. I can't escape the blame myself. I stood by here and watched my friends and neighbors sacrificed to the greed of the Oracle and said nothing because the time was not right. But the time has now come. The truth will come out and the Rationalist cause will be heard.

102 ANGLE ON THE PORTAL

102

as the vortex suddenly appears and Samson comes through it, followed by Quinn, Maggie and Rembrandt.

103 THE CROWD 103

is suddenly hushed. Nobody has ever seen anything like this. Many of the Oracle supporters drop to their knees, certain this is some kind of miracle. The Rationalists are stunned, don't know how to react.

104 ON THE STAGE 104

Cadmus is as knocked out as anyone. Samson crosses quickly to the podium, to the mike.

SAMSON

I have returned to continue the fight for the rational and the right.

There is cheering from his supporters and a shout of "The Oracle is Right!" from someone. Samson quiets everyone with a wave of his hand.

SAMSON

No. The Oracle is not right.

Rats in the crowd cheer.

SAMSON

The Rationalists may not be right either.

Rats in the crowd boo.

SAMSON

But, for a change, we are going to have a free and open forum to find out.

(points to the portal)

I am not a Welcomer come back from the 'other side.' What you just saw was not a miracle, but the result of pure science. A kind of science that is not to be feared, but to be embraced for what it can teach us about our world, and ourselves. As Charles Darwin said: 'Accurate knowledge is the true wealth of the world.'

As Samson continues, we move to...

105 THE SLIDERS - A MOVING SHOT 105

with Quinn, Maggie and Remmy as they go off to one side of the podium and toward a side exit.

CONTINUED

105 CONTINUED

105

QUINN

(checking the timer)  
We've only got two minutes here  
this time. Let's take it outside.  
I don't know if these people need  
any more shocks.

REMBRANDT

How are they gonna handle what  
they've got?

MAGGIE

I think we've started some kind of  
revolution here.

QUINN

It was bound to happen. We just  
nudged it along. It's their world  
and they're going to have to deal  
with it. Thomas Jefferson once  
said that politics is like the  
weather. Every so often you need a  
good storm to clear things out.

MAGGIE

Are you going to start quoting  
stuff now?

Quinn smiles and shrugs. As they reach the exit.

MAGGIE

(to Rembrandt)  
Who was Thomas Jefferson?

REMBRANDT

Big man in my world. Got his face  
on some of the money.

And they're gone.

FADE OUT

THE END

Extra dialogue for Samson in Scene 105:

SAMSON

It's time to step out of the shadows of superstition and fear. The Rationalist way will not forbid belief in the Oracle or in any other system, rational or metaphysical. There is room in this world for an infinite variety of thought. But there is no room for slavery of the mind or for tyranny from any ruling class. We will call for a Constitutional Convention to return to the principles of our founding fathers. Freedom of speech, assembly and religion will be restored and will never be violated again by any regime. No government can exist above the people. It must be of the people...